

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 30 JANUARY 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign, and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at <http://www.sarl.org.za> while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnwsbulletin.wordpress.com>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

SANDTON ARC FOX HUNT THIS AFTERNOON

ICASA LICENCE FEES INCREASE BY 4,5%

and

TWO CONTESTS NEXT WEEKEND

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

SANDTON ARC FOX HUNT THIS AFTERNOON

All radio amateurs in Gauteng are invited to participate in the drive and seek Foxhunt challenge taking place today at 13:00 CAT in Melrose Johannesburg, hosted by the Sandton ARC. The Fox will be broadcasting on 144,525 MHz and Richard, ZR6DE the Fox keeper, will be available on the event bragging frequency of 145,525 MHz Will you earn your bragging rights or will the Fox win? Come and have some fun. All details are available on the SARL Upcoming Events Diary Forum and in previous SARL News bulletins.

ICASA LICENCE FEES INCREASE BY 4,5%

ICASA has notified the SARL that a 4,5% increase in the licence fees will come into effect on Friday 1 April 2022. A one year licence will increase from R 159.00 to R 166.00; a two year licence from R 304.00 to R 317.00; a three year licence from R 436.00 to R 455.00; a four year licence from R 555.00 to R 579.00 and a five year licence R 663.00 to R 692.00.

It is very important that all radio amateurs must register on the ICASA online system. No invoices will be sent via the Post Office, the invoices will be available for download from the ICASA licencing portal. When the licence fee has been paid, the proof of payment must be uploaded to the ICASA system whereafter the licence document will be available for download.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR AWARD NOMINATION IS 31 JANUARY 2022

The closing date for nominations for SARL awards and trophies as well as motions for discussion at the AGM in April is 23:59 CAT on Monday 31 January 2022. No late entries will be accepted. No nominations for the operating awards have been received. No Club has offered to host the 2023 National Convention. Use the nomination forms available on the SARL website, fill in the details of the nominee, fill in the motivation, sign the form as proposer and get the required signatures from the seconders. Then submit the form in PDF format to the SARL Secretary secretary@sarl.org.za. Refer to the SARL Communication dated 12 January 2022.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE SARL VHF/UHF FM CONTEST

The SARL VHF/UHF FM contest will run from 12:00 to 16:00 UTC on Saturday 5 February 2022 and the aim is to promote activity on FM simplex frequencies on the following bands - 6 m from 51,500 to 51,550 MHz, 2 m from 145,500 to 145,575 MHz and 70 cm from 433,500 to 433,550 MHz. Clubs are encouraged to get their members to work greater distances than usual on simplex by operating portable/field stations and let their new members get the feeling of taking part in a contest. Full details can be found on pages 24 and 25 of the 2022 SARL Contest Manual.

AWA CW ACTIVITY DAY

The aim of the CW Activity Day is for participants to contact as many amateurs as possible on the 20, 40 and 80 m amateur bands and will run from 13:00 to 15:00 UTC on Sunday 6 February 2022. Activity will take place between 14,000 and 14,060 MHz; 7,000 and 7,035 MHz and 3,500 and 3,560 MHz. you can participate as a Single Operator All Band - Low Power (maximum 100 W); a Single operator All Band - QRP (Maximum 5 W); a Single Operator Single Band - Low Power (maximum 100 W); a Single operator, single band - QRP (maximum 5 W); or a Short-Wave Listener.

The exchange is RST report, your name and your grid square. A QSO with a low power station is worth 1 point and a QSO with a QRP station is worth 2 points. Certificates are awarded to the first three places and the highest single band score. Log sheets in ADIF or Excel should be sent to andyzs6ady@gmail.com by 21:59 UTC on Friday 11 February 2022. The information is on page 50 of the 2022 Blue Book.

A REPORT BACK FROM THE SANDTON POWER HOUR TALK

Thank you to Brian, NB7KW/6, who gave a very interesting and well-prepared talk on APRS to a group of 25 or more amateurs during the Power Hour Tech Talk on Wednesday evening 26 January. The talk covered the history of APRS, what you can do with it, what you need and where to get more information. You can get going with just a smart phone, HT and connecting cable. This is another interesting facet of our hobby that has many practical uses. Visit

APRS.FI for a local map showing APRS stations and APRS.ORG for more information.

The next Power Hour talk is on 23 February, where our special guests will be covering the QO-100 geostationary satellite. Thanks to all who are participating in the Tech Talks. It is great having you on channel.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently various sunspots with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a high probability of C-class and a small probability of M-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 45. The 10 to 30 m bands may provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the Sandton ARC Fox Hunt

31 January – the closing date for AGM motions, Award nominations, and Council nominations

1 February – the Registration for the May RAE opens

5 February – the SARL VHF/UHF FM Activity Day

6 February – the AWA CW Activity Day

11 February – the closing date for AWA CW Logs

12 February – the closing date for SARL VHF/UHF logs

14 February – the closing date for PEARS VHF/UHF logs

19 February – the SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contest

19 and 20 February – the ARRL International DX CW Contest

23 February – the Sandton ARC Power Hour

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

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This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS/1, proof-read by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by

From the News Team, best wishes for the week ahead.